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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,014	06/15/2001	Michael Smith	1826 (42059-01360)	9634

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EXAMINER

LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/883,014	Applicant(s) SMITH, MICHAEL	
	Examiner Etienne P LeRoux	Art Unit 2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-11, 14-16 and 18-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-11, 14-16 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Finality Withdrawn

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Status

Claims 8-11, 14-16 and 18-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-7, 12, 13 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 8-11, 14-16 and 18-20 are rejected in this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-10, 14-16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pub No US 2002/0120716 issued to Raghunathan (hereafter Raghunathan) in view of US Pat No 5,930,764 issued to Melchione et al (hereafter Melchione) and further in view of US Pat No 5,878,415 issued to Olds (hereafter Olds).

Claims 8 and 15:

Raghunathan discloses as admitted prior art:

detecting a query from at least one entity over a data network seeking a first view of at least one entry in a shared directory [application server 1220, Fig 12, paragraph 13]

retrieving identification information for the at least one entity, wherein the identification information includes hierarchical information associated with the at least one entity [paragraph 17, employees access data depending on their position]

searching the shared directory to identify all of the at least one entries in the directory which includes the hierarchical information [paragraph 13, database server 1250 accesses scheduling/accounting/personnel/payroll application data]

presenting to the at least one entity initiating the query only, all of the identified at least one entry in a second view [paragraph 17, employees access data and system resources depending on their position]

Raghunathan discloses the essential elements of the claimed invention as noted above but does not disclose denying access to the first view based on the hierarchical information. Melchione discloses denying access to the first view based on the hierarchical information [Melchione, access is restricted, col 17, lines 1-5]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Raghunathan to include denying access to the first view based on the hierarchical information as taught by Melchione for the purpose of purpose of restricting access to highly confidential and valuable information maintained by financial institutions [Melchione, col 16, lines 65-67].

Raghunathan discloses the essential elements of the claimed invention as noted above but does not disclose an address entry in a shared directory. Olds discloses an address entry in a shared directory [col 1, line 67]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Raghunathan to include an address entry in a shared

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directory as taught by Olds for the purpose of providing an electronic database of employee information which can be accessed and maintained electronically.

Claim 9:

The combination of Raghunathan, Melchione and Olds discloses the elements of claim 8 as noted above and furthermore, discloses wherein the shared directory is configurable for supporting emessaging [Olds, E-mail address, col 1, line 67].

Claim 10:

The combination of Raghunathan, Melchione and Olds discloses the elements of claim 8 as noted above and furthermore, discloses wherein the entities comprise at least one of at least one person and at least one group [Olds, network user, col 1, lines 23-35]

Claim 14 and 19:

The combination of Raghunathan, Melchione and Olds discloses the elements of claims 8/15/16 as noted above and furthermore, discloses wherein the first view is a listing of all entries in the directory and the second view is a copy of the listing with modified selection criteria [Olds, administrator is able to make global changes thus has global access, col 3, lines 55-65, user is granted access per the access control list 74, Fig 4, col 8, line 61 – col 9, line 2].

Claim 16:

The combination of Raghunathan, Melchione and Olds discloses the elements of claim 15 as noted above and furthermore, discloses wherein the data network is the internet and the server is configured to communicate with web browsers [Olds, col 6, lines 3-12]

Claim 18:

The combination of Raghunathan, Melchione and Olds discloses the elements of claim 15 as noted above and furthermore, discloses Olds discloses wherein the server and directory are configured to provide hosted emessaging services for a plurality of third parties [Olds, Fig 1, 20,col 6, line 44 – 58]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olds in view of Pub No US 2002/0104018 issued to Singhani et al (hereafter Singhani).

Claims 11 and 20:

The combination of Raghunathan, Melchione and Olds discloses the elements of claim 8/15 as noted above but does not disclose wherein the hierarchal information includes at least one of company name and company location. Singhani discloses wherein the hierarchal information includes at least one of company name and company location [paragraph 57]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above combination of references to include wherein the hierarchal information includes at least one of company name and company location as taught by Singhani for the purpose of providing necessary information for the purposes of approving/rejecting by an application administrator a request by a user for access to an application [paragraph 57].

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 18/10/2005 have been fully considered and found persuasive but are now moot based on above new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: US Pat No 6,769,068 issued to Brozowski et al discloses retrieving identification information for the at least one entity, wherein the identification information includes hierarchical information associated with the entity.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne P. LeRoux whose telephone number is (571) 272-4022. The examiner can normally be reached Monday – Friday between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

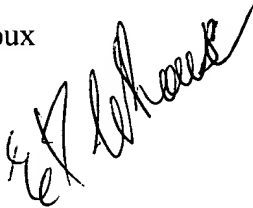
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Etienne LeRoux

11/25/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Etienne LeRoux', is written over the typed name and date.